

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Golden Field Office; Notice of Federal Assistance Award to Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.**

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of financial assistance award in response to an unsolicited financial assistance application.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.7, is announcing its intention to enter into a cooperative agreement with Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (APC), to conduct research and development activities on a Sorption Enhanced Reaction (SER) process for use with Steam Methane Reforming (SMR). The SER technology could change the basic concept and engineering design of existing hydrogen production systems based upon SMR and, as a result, reduce the cost of hydrogen.

ADDRESSES: Questions regarding this announcement may be addressed to the U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado 80401, Attention: John Motz, Contract Specialist. The telephone number is 303-275-4737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE has evaluated, in accordance with § 600.14 of the Federal Assistance Regulations, the unsolicited proposal entitled "Sorption Enhanced Reaction (SER) Process for Production of Hydrogen" and recommends that the unsolicited proposal be accepted for support without further competition in accordance with § 600.14 of the Federal Assistance Regulations.

Under this cooperative agreement, APC will develop an approach for producing hydrogen through an SER process used with SMR. The project is expected to be conducted through a three-phase effort over a period of five years. The three overall activities include Concept Feasibility (Phase I), Engineering Development (Phase II), and Process Development Unit Demonstration (Phase III).

The objective of Phase I (two years in duration) is to demonstrate the feasibility of performing SMR at a low temperature with a suitable material for the production of hydrogen and to develop the base design data for engineering development and economic evaluation. The objective of Phase II (one year in duration) is to develop engineering data and models for scale-up of SER-SMR technology and continue laboratory efforts to develop improved reaction materials. Lastly, the objective of Phase III (two years in

duration) is to design, install, and operate a Process Development Unit (PDU) for the manufacture of hydrogen using the SER concept. This PDU will be used to develop performance data, process optimization, and models for scale-up. Additionally, detailed economic analysis will be performed to confirm the merits of the process. Commercialization plans will be developed in detail.

The proposal has been found to be meritorious in the DOE evaluation. The APC program represents a unique approach to develop and demonstrate a technology which could result in reduced costs for hydrogen production with the SER-SMR process. The team proposed by APC has the technical capabilities and commitment which should provide a basis for a successful project. The proposed project is not eligible for financial assistance under a recent, current, or planned solicitation. This award will not be made for at least 14 days after publication to allow for public comment.

The project cost over five years (including three phases) is estimated to be \$8,940,000 total, with the DOE share being \$5,540,000.

Issued in Golden, Colorado, on January 30, 1995.

John W. Meeker,

Chief, Procurement, GO.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket Nos. CP95-170-000 and CP95-181-000]

Columbia Gas Transmission Corp.; Notice of Intent To Prepare Environmental Assessments for the Proposed Coco Transmission Project and Coco Storage Field Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

February 9, 1995

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare environmental assessments (EAs) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Coco Transmission Project and Coco Storage Field Project.¹ The EAs will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is

¹ Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation's applications were filed with the Commission under Sections 7(b) and 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act.

necessary and whether to approve the projects.

Summary of the Proposed Projects

The facilities proposed to be replaced are currently in an unsafe condition due to corrosion and old age. Replacement is necessary this year in order to provide service in the upcoming winter of 1995/1996.

Coco Transmission Project (Docket No. CP95-170-000):

Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation (Columbia) proposes to construct 6.8 miles of 30-inch-diameter replacement pipeline in Kanawha County, West Virginia. The new pipeline would replace the two deteriorating 20-inch-diameter Lines X52-M1 and X52-M1-Loop, which are in the same location. Columbia would use the facilities to transport up to 606,000,000 cubic feet per day of natural gas.

Coco Storage Field Project (Docket No. CP95-181-000):

Columbia proposes to construct 10.9 miles of various 4- to 20-inch-diameter replacement pipeline and appurtenant facilities within the existing Coco "A" Storage Field in Kanawha County, West Virginia. The new pipeline would replace 15.7 miles of deteriorating pipeline, ranging in size from 4- to 16-inch-diameter, including two looped segments of mainline, and gathering lines for wells.

Columbia would also replace and install appurtenant facilities consisting of wellhead piping and measurement facilities for 29 existing wells; install an on-line pigging system on the new 10- and 20-inch-diameter pipelines; and install fluid gathering facilities and about 12 miles of 1- and 2-inch-diameter pressurized methanol pipeline injecting system that would connect to each well.

The locations of these facilities are shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

The proposed project would be built within and adjacent to existing rights-of-way. Columbia intends to use a construction right-of-way that would vary between 25 and 120 feet during construction. Following construction, 50 feet would be maintained as permanent right-of-way, and the rest would revert back to the landowner.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, Room 3104, 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.